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SPORT

CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

A PAPER, ON THE
GAME BIRDS AND WILD ANIMALS OF MANITOBA
AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

READ BY

J. H. HUBBARD, F.Z.S.

President of the Manitoba Gun Club.



AT A CONFERENCE HELD AT THE COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION

JULY 29th, 1886.

Also an Appendix giving Practical Information for the Guidance of
Sportsmen.

*With the Author's
Compliments*

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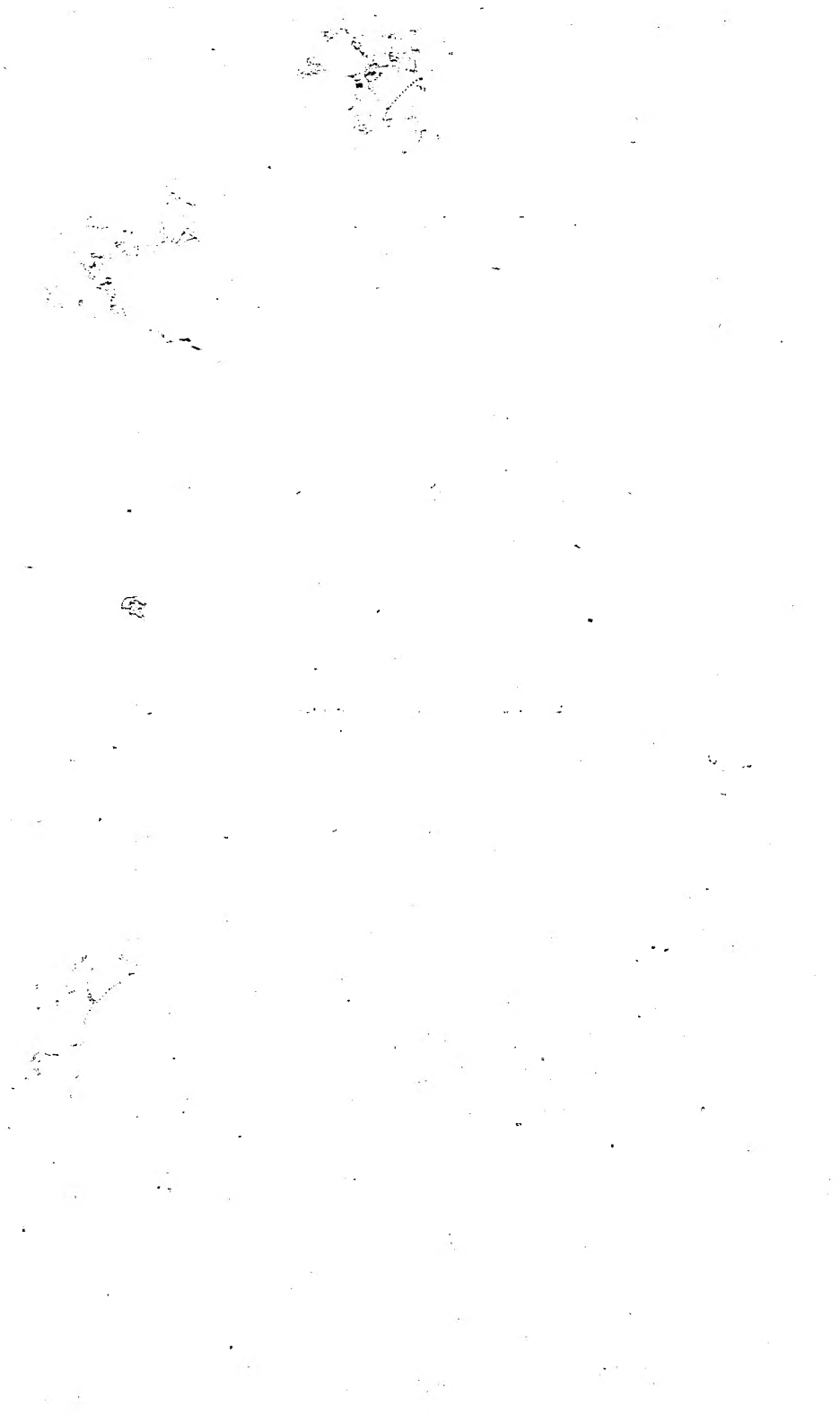
PREFACE.

It may, without exaggeration, be said that never before have the natural history and sport attractions of the Canadian North-West and Rocky Mountain regions been brought before the European public so forcibly as during the past twelve months. At Antwerp, last year, the largest collection of wild animals and game birds hitherto seen outside the Dominion found a prominent place in the Canadian Court; and this year, at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, there is no feature of the Canadian Section, or perhaps of the whole Exhibition, that has attracted more widespread attention than the Canadian Game Trophy.

It may therefore be of interest to sportsmen, wherever they are to be found, to learn something on this subject from the lips of the one to whom the presence of the majority of the specimens on the Trophy is due, and in whose hands the whole has assumed its present form. And it may be taken that what is said in the following pages—a reproduction as they mostly are of the paper read at a Conference in the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in July last—is based upon actual knowledge and personal experience.

By those about to follow in the footsteps marked out in the following pages, special attention should be paid to the Appendix, where information of direct practical value may be found.

J. H. H.



THE GAME BIRDS AND WILD ANIMALS

OF THE

CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

PERHAPS I may be permitted, by way of introduction, to say a few words about myself. I was born in the city of Toronto, Canada, in 1846. I have, from my youth upwards, been an ardent admirer of sport, and fond of the gun—not from a natural longing to kill everything that lived or came near me, but purely from ambition to become a good marksman. I was aware that to succeed in this object constant practice and great perseverance were necessary. Experience has proved the correctness of this opinion.

My roving habits in early life led me nearly all over the American Continent. For eight years I shot with more or less success at important pigeon matches in different cities in Canada and the United States. I afterwards removed to a district where game, in its migratory flights, was plentiful. This induced me to give up match shooting for sport of a higher order, and far more interesting to myself. In these pursuits I had sport to my heart's content from nearly every lake, marsh, and woodland from Ontario to British Columbia.

I come before you, therefore, as a practical sportsman, and to make you clearly understand what I mean as regards genera and species I have brought here several specimens of the birds and animals of which I speak. Within the walls of the Exhibition may be seen a specimen of each of these animals and game birds.

THE GAME BIRDS OF THE NORTH-WEST.

I will first dwell upon the game birds of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, without touching upon Ontario, the province of Quebec, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick. Manitoba, in fact, possesses a charm for the feathered game birds of British North America which is unequalled. Their natural food is there in unlimited quantities, coupled with a vast extent of country, uncultivated and giving them perpetual security. For many years to come this will continue. The migratory game birds come to us with the early spring—the latter part of March and beginning of April—arriving in magnificent plumage, prepared by nature to nest at once. Myriads of every species and class mingle together on their northern voyage, looking for suitable homes where they may bring forth their young. Their advent in former years was looked for as glad tidings by the half-breeds and inhabitants, giving fresh meat, almost delivered at the door, and fresh eggs for at least six weeks. The supply has not diminished in the least even to this day. Restrictions under game laws are happily such that now they cannot be killed or their eggs gathered during the breeding season; but their coming is just the same, and their departure all the more numerous. After settling down into the dry grass of the past year in the marshes and coolies, their nests are built at once, and our vast territory becomes an incubator, the parent bird acting as a faithful attendant. The species of duck which breed in Manitoba and the North-West consist of the mallard duck, grey duck, black duck, teal, canvas-back, gadwell, pintail, redhead, bluebill, shoveller, ruddy, gold eye, bufflehead, widgeon, and many varieties of less notable ducks. The geese arrive a couple of weeks later. This species is headed by the premier goose of the world.

—the Canada goose—followed by Brant, Ross's, and the snow goose. The geese proceed due north, only stopping in Manitoba to feed and gravel. At this time (July) our lake shores are dotted with thousands, and their noise can be heard for miles. Their great breeding grounds are in the vicinity of James Bay, 50° 30' N., yet they also choose the Upper Saskatchewan and north of Prince Albert as a breeding ground. Swans, pelicans, sand-hill cranes, and herons come at the same time, while the waders or shore birds all follow about two weeks later. They come not in flocks, but promiscuously; no one seems to know how, only that their numbers increase day by day. They breed everywhere in the country around. September 1st is looked upon in Manitoba as a gala day by sportsmen. On that day not only the migratory birds can be shot, but the residential birds as well. All are good flyers, but sometimes late seasons occur. The residential birds are the pinnated grouse or prairie chicken, the ruffed grouse or partridge, the pintail or sharp-tail grouse, and the ptarmigan.

Let us now look at each of these varieties of birds a little in detail, and it will be seen how well they repay a careful study:—

CANADA GROUSE, SPRUCE GROUSE, OR SPRUCE PARTRIDGE.—This species is very plentiful to the north, and in the immense region between the great lakes and the Saskatchewan, Athabasca, and Mackenzie Rivers, and the Rocky Mountains.

DUSKY GROUSE (*Obscura*) is to be found at the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains. It is a very large bird, the flesh of which, however, is only choice when the bird is not feeding on buds.

PINTAIL GROUSE (*Phasianellus*).—The neck of this species is without the obviously peculiar feathers which

mark the pinnated grouse, the ruffed grouse, and the sage cock. There is, however, a hidden, though definitely circumscribed, space on each side, with a reddish vascular and distensible skin constituting an undeveloped tympanum. Over this lies a lateral series of slightly enlarged feathers. The head of the bird is lightly crested. The sexes are similar, though the cock is rather larger and darker than the hen.

COMMON SHARP-TAILED GROUSE, PRAIRIE CHICKEN OF THE NORTH-WEST, OR PINNATED GROUSE (*Columbianus*).—Owing to the rapid extension of cultivation, this bird is not so plentiful as the pintail grouse, though it is larger, and perhaps a more rapid flyer. It is a good table bird.

RUFFLED GROUSE (*Umbella*) OR PARTRIDGE.—This is a woodland bird, yet it inhabits the willow and scrub land on the edges of marshes. The sportsman's dog will first turn it out, and then it will act like members of the other grouse family. The hen has a less-developed ruffle, varied with brown and white.

PTARMIGAN (*Lagopus*) OR SNOW GROUSE.—There are no peculiar feathers on the head or neck of this bird. Its winter plumage is entirely white.

WILLOW PTARMIGAN (*Albus*) OR WILLOW GROUSE may be found in large quantities in our extreme northern latitudes.

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Buccinator*).—This bird breeds in North Winnipegosis and Churchill districts. It returns to Manitoba some two weeks earlier than the Canada goose, but leaves about the same time.

THE WHISTLING SWAN (*Musicus*) breeds only in the far North, and returns with the other species. It is plentiful around Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba, in the Saskatchewan district, and to the north to Prince Albert on its return.

COMMON AND BLACK BRANT (*Nigricans*).—The body of this species is elevated and not so much flattened as is the

case with ducks, while the legs are longer. The species is also, as a rule, more terrestrial than ducks, while both sexes attend to their young. One notable trait, like that of the swan, is its mode of resenting intrusion by hissing with outstretched neck. It is, however, easily tamed, though it always retains its peculiar call—a wild, unnatural cry.

CANADA GOOSE (*Canadensis*).—This, as I have said, is the premier goose of the world—the common wild goose. Its bill, feet, head, and neck are black, though on the chin there is a broad white patch, mounting on the sides of the head behind the eyes and sometimes broken on the chin. It is the most abundant goose in our country.

LESSER SNOW GOOSE (*Albatus*).—This species visits us in the spring, flying to the north, and not returning by the same route when going south.

ROSS'S GOOSE (*Rossi*).—This is the Horned Navy or Least Snow Goose—a very common and very small white goose, no larger than a mallard duck.

MALLARD DUCK (*Boschas*).—This comprises the wild and domestic duck, of which its green head is a distinguishing feature. It is found in greater abundance than any other duck; indeed, it breeds in Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Its nest may often be seen, in a ramble over the prairie, to be resting on the ground, and made of rushes and rough grass.

BLACK DUCK OR DUSKY DUCK (*Obscura*).—This bird is of the size of the mallard, which it generally resembles. The crop of the mallard is, however, darker without, and white elsewhere, except in the lining of the wings. The sexes are alike. The species is not very plentiful in Manitoba or in the North-West Territories.

PINTAIL DUCK (*Dafila*).—This bird breeds extensively in Manitoba. It feeds on the stubble in the spring, in large flocks, having its nest on the ground.

GADWELL (*Stercorarius*) OR GRAY DUCK.—One of the most widely diffused of ducks in most parts of the world. Like other varieties of ducks, it breeds on the ground.

WOOD DUCK (*Sponsa*).—The wood duck, the finest plumaged duck of all the game birds, breeds in limited quantities in Manitoba, but on the autumn flight from the north-west it is quite abundant.

THE RED-HEAD POCHARD (*Ferina Americana*) makes its home in the North-West in large quantities during the breeding season. It affords fine flight-shooting in the autumn, and is a good eating duck.

CANVAS-BACK DUCK (*Vallisneria*).—The canvas-back duck's breeding ground is situated both in Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Its head is closely feathered; the bill is high at the base and narrow throughout, or else scarcely widened towards the end, sloping gradually to the top of the head, in line with the sweep of the forehead. The bird is altogether something like the Canada goose in shape. The bill, however, is not blue or black-belted but blackish throughout. Its eyes are red; its feet a greyish-blue; its head and upper neck, not a coppery brownish-red as the Canada goose, but a dark reddish-brown. The ground colour of its back is white, and one cannot but admire its finely vermicular shape, with zig-zag blackish bars much narrower than the intervening spaces and tending to break up, if not mostly broken up, in little chains or dots across the feathers. Of this duck—the finest flavoured eating duck known—I have made a study during the past five years. Its every habit I have watched, from the coming to us in the spring of the parent bird until its departure with its brood; and I can assure you that there is no difference in its flavour from any other first quality duck until the late autumn comes, when all ducks flock according to their species. Then the canvas-back at once takes to the lakes, feeding at the

mouths of rivers in large flocks, pulling up long grass, reeds, lily roots—anything in fact growing with roots like celery. Its whole diet consists of this, and its flesh becomes very choice indeed. Its value in the Winnipeg market is 1s. 6d. and 2s. per pair; in New York, £1; here in London, £2. Of these birds I have shot seventy in one day's flight-shooting. Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg are truly the sportsman's paradise. At only one day's journey from the city of Winnipeg, the Canadian Pacific Railway and its branches now convey one to within a very short distance of these great shooting grounds. Goose Lake and Rush Lake, in the Territories, are simply alive with these feathered game birds. They go almost due west on their departure, retiring to British Columbia and California during the winter.

WIDGEON (*Mareca*).—This bird comes to us in the early spring. It is, in fact, about the first to arrive. It breeds in the North-West Territories in greater quantities than in Manitoba.

AMERICAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Carolinensis*).—This teal is a common duck with us. It breeds in great quantities in almost every marsh, and is excellent in flavour.

THE BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Discors*) also breeds freely in Manitoba, and is a choice bird to eat.

THE CINNAMON TEAL (*Cyanoptera*) is not so plentiful as others of the same species, yet it may be found in good quantities further to the west.

SPOON-BILL DUCK (*Spatula*).—This is a great breeder in Manitoba.

SHOVELLER (*Olypeata*) breeds abundantly in Manitoba and in the North-West Territories. It is not, in truth, a choice marketable duck, yet it is not to be despised.

GOLDEN EYE OR WHISTLER'S (*Glaucium*).—This bird comes to us in the usual spring flight. It is by no means a choice eating duck with us.

THE BUFFLE-HEAD BUTTER BALL (*Albeola*) is a very small duck, and very tame during the breeding season. It is not sought by sportsmen in Manitoba, and, indeed, is hardly shot at all.

BLUE BILL (*Marila*) RAFT DUCK OR RIVER DUCK.—This species breeds freely, and looks like the Red-Head Duck. In the autumn it comes to us in great numbers. It is fair eating, and affords good flight-shooting.

STELLER'S EIDER-DUCK (*Stelleri*) is not plentiful, and is but poor eating, though having fine plumage.

PLOVER.—The following species and kinds of shore and field birds breed in and frequent Manitoba and the North-West Territories in great abundance from April till November: American Golden Plover (*Dominicus*), Black-bellied Plover (*Charadrius*), Ring Plover (*Ægialities*), Kildeer (*Vociferus*), Wilson's Plover (*Wilsonius*), Prairie Plover (*Montanus*), Turnstone (*Strepsilas*), Avocets (*Recurvirostra*), American Avocet (Blue Stocking) (*Americana*), Stilts (*Himantopus*), Long Shanks (*Mexicanus*), Wilson's Phalarope (*Wilsoni*), Red-necked Phalarope (*Hyperboreus*), Wilson's English Snipe (*Wilsoni*), Woodcock (*Philohela minor*), Godwits (*Limosa*), Great Marbled Godwit (*Fœda*), Tattlers (*Symphemia*), Curlews (*Numenius*).

There are also the herons, sand hill cranes, bittern, pelican, rails, coots, and other waders. All make a home in the North-West during the spring, summer, and autumn.

The many other lesser species to be found in the North-West need not be mentioned here, even though some of them abound in great numbers. I have mentioned only the most prominent fowls—that is, those most known to sportsmen. In doing this I must acknowledge my indebtedness in some cases to Elliott & Cowes Genera; while later on, in describing the deer tribes, I have quoted from Mr. Seton—an excellent authority indeed.

THE WILD ANIMALS OF THE NORTH-WEST.

CARIBOU (*Rangifer Caribou*).—The first animal inhabitant of Manitoba, Keewatin, and the North-West to which I shall direct your attention is the woodland caribou. In colour it varies from a slate to a chestnut, white at points, while shaded underneath. Its chief anatomical peculiarities are the spreading helmeted horns (present also in the female) and its wonderful peculiar-shaped hoof with accessory hoof which touches the ground. There are other places in the New World where the caribou may be found—Newfoundland, Labrador, British Columbia; while the Peace River country, by all reliable reports, offers the greatest inducement in natural food and solitude, while its climate does not necessitate migratory trips of any great distance to get away from flies. In Manitoba the caribou inhabits that large tract of land lying between Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg; while in Eagle Pass, in the Selkirk Range, it is to be found in greater numbers. Its principal food consists of moss, and I believe the animal would not live without it. The sportsman will find the caribou an animal well able to take care of itself. The meat is very good for food, when quite fat; the hide makes an excellent leather, and when the hair is on affords good protection against the weather, while the sinews make the best of thread. This animal, like the moose, can be domesticated, and makes a good traveller and willing beast of burden, being very tractable, and kept with very little expense or trouble. Every part of the caribou becomes useful after death to the trapper or habitant.

THE MOOSE (*Alces Americanus*, Jardine).—This, the king deer—the giraffe of our forests—the finest deer in all the world—sometimes exceeds a horse in size. Clumsy to look at, it is ungainly, yet very fleet and by nature well prepared to

look after itself. Only at certain seasons is it at the mercy of man—that is, when the ground is covered with crusted snow or deep snow, and when it is in the “yards,” so called because large numbers herd there for company’s sake. The moose domesticated and the moose wild, free to act for itself, are quite different animals in appearance. It is to the former that the many remarks as to its ungainly and seemingly clumsy appearance apply; but with a hunter who has had the grand sport of shooting this animal all such remarks find no place at the critical moment when he looms up as fine a specimen of deer as ever trod the earth. To a stranger viewing it on the game trophy in our Canadian Section it no doubt looks strange. And yet, though devoid of that airy grace that distinguishes our smaller deer, it is possessed of a beauty that manifests itself in perfect adjustment, and of a majesty that is inseparable from vast size and strength. The moose inhabited at one time nearly all the wooded regions of the higher latitudes, but at present its range is much less extensive, and it is found in great numbers only about the south of Hudson Bay and in the region north of the Great Slave Lake. In Manitoba it is distributed wherever the locality is congenial, and is quite abundant in the Duck Riding Mountains, and in the marshes and low lands around nearly all our large lakes. It usually frequents the low damp thickets of willow, birch, and alder, finding in these at once perfect security from its natural enemies and an abundance of browse and tender twigs on which it principally subsists; while its great strength of limb and its wide-spreading hoofs enable it to cross with safety the most treacherous of bogs. The cow moose brings forth her calf in May or June; and, as I have stated, on account of its living in such secluded locations, it is usually free from molestation during summer or fall, until the frost makes its

haunts more easily accessible to the hunter. When the winter opens in Manitoba and the North-West—that is generally from the 20th to the 30th of November—the moose quits the solitary roving life it has led during the summer. [I might say here that the natives, knowing its habits and haunts, often secure the young moose alive, and bring it up by hand quite easily. Mr. Bedson, of Stony Mountain, Manitoba, has two now that I saw near St. Peter's Indian Reserve when they were quite young last year, and judging from accounts I have received they are doing well.] The animals as winter approaches herd in small numbers, and the males engage in furious combats. Quietness is finally restored as winter comes on, and the herds increase. They then seek a secluded place in the interior where shelter is good and food easily obtained, and there they remain as long as food holds out. At the slightest noise or appearance of danger they all make off in single file; each treads in the track of the one before, so that in many places only one trail appears. The value of this animal's carcass for food, and the high quality of the leather manufactured from its hide, combined with the great difficulty attendant on the pursuit, have rendered the moose the most celebrated object of the chase in America. Its powers of scent and hearing are unexcelled; its wariness and cunning are proverbial; so that one who is a successful moose hunter is acknowledged to have attained the acme of woodcraft.

The flesh of the moose is a staple article of diet in the North-West Territories, and is considered quite as nutritious and palatable as ordinary beef, while the muscle and gristle of the snout and tongue are esteemed among the greatest delicacies. Its hide affords the best leather for moccasins; the long bristles of the mane are dyed by the Indian squaws, and worked into a variety of embroidery patterns, samples of which are exhibited in the Indian Bazaar opposite the

game trophy in the Canadian Section of the Exhibition. I know of several moose that have been broken to harness, and have contested many races throughout Canada and at the usual race meetings held in Ontario. Indeed, I witnessed one race at Hamilton, Ontario, where the moose was successful against a horse, though I will confess he looked out of place, viewed from my position. The head and horns of the specimen I have here measure 5 ft. 3 in.; its companion on the trophy measures 5 ft. 2 in. I lay claim that this pair is unequalled in any part of the globe. The large male moose on the right-hand side of the trophy stands 6 ft. 3½ in. It no doubt fills the place that the two mammoth heads do, viz., its size—18.3½ hands high—has never been beaten to my knowledge. Last year, on my way down from Manitoba, there was exhibited in St. Lawrence Market, Montreal, a moose shot by a party near Callander. It was, indeed, a large moose, standing 16¾ hands, and weighing 1,157 lbs. Thirteen heads and one life-size moose help to complete the list of this species as seen on the game trophy that are of my own killing and collecting. I hope some day to add a few more from the Peace River country.

ANTELOPE—PRONGBUCK (*Antilocapra Americana*).—This wonderfully happy looking creature is, I claim, the sharpest in appearance of all the deer species, and affords magnificent sport after you once learn its habits. It is a gracefully formed animal, standing about four feet high at the chest, and three at the back, while from nose to tail it measures about five feet. Its colour is fawn, excepting at the throat, rump, flanks, and lower parts, where it is white. The eyes are wonderfully large, and the feet very peculiar in bearing but two hoofs each, the accessory pair being absent. The antelope is found in the North-West Territories west and north of Fort Qu'Appelle,

at Maple Creek, McLeod, the plains of the Souris, and as far west as the Rockies. Last year I saw them even on the foot-hills of the Rockies, very near Canmore, as the train was winding its way up to the summit. They are very migratory in their habits, and where one year they are plentiful, another season there are none. The antelope is generally alarmed at the first sight of anything unusual, but after its first fright is over it generally returns to see what was the cause of alarm. Put a red handkerchief on a stick, when the wind is blowing over the antelope, to windward; the moving of the handkerchief soon tells the tale, for the bump of inquisitiveness is so highly developed that he will deliberately walk up and face death within fifty or sixty yards of your concealment. With a Winchester repeater it is destruction to three or four at least before they are out of range.

THE BUFFALO (*Bison Americanus*). — This once valuable animal is now almost out of existence so far as ordinary sporting is concerned. Yet the Peace River country is almost hidden from us as to what it really contains. Certain portions of it, of course, we know. There are regular trails to the Hudson Bay Company's posts and Stobart & Sons' posts; and even the Indian, when your guide, leads you only where *he* knows. As to what animal life exists, I may, in regard to numbers, well repeat the words of Mr. Lattouche Tupper, of Winnipeg, a gentleman who has lived in the region. He says substantially what I have just repeated—that game exists there as it never did on our plains. The wood buffalo is a species of buffalo almost entirely confined to this district, as well as to the Mackenzie River, Barren Grounds, and the Great Slave Lake districts. Wood Mountains and Medicine Hat, in the North-West Territory, were at one time the favourite resorts for hunting parties to shoot and slaughter this

once valuable animal. Mr. Bedson, of Stony Mountain, is now the owner of 40 or 50, nearly all thoroughbred buffalos. They are cared for on the plains simply by seeing that they do not roam away. In winter they come up quite tamely, and are fed regularly with hay—more, of course, to make them understand that they have a home, for as a rule they get their own fodder. During the entire winter, remember, the deepest snow we are troubled with at any one time, until the spring, is about ten inches. Six is about our average in Manitoba until the breaking up in the latter part of February or the first of March; then the weather moderates. Snow will, however, at times come daily.

Now, to show the hardiness of this almost departed species, I will state an occurrence that took place on the open prairie in January, 1884. One of the cows calved on the open prairie; at the time the thermometer registered 38° below zero, and yet the calf lived, and both did well. Enterprising capitalists are about to take the valuable herd belonging to Mr. Bedson and establish an experimental breeding farm for them.

THE JUMPING DEER OR MULE DEER (*Cariacus macrotis*).—This is the common deer of Manitoba. It is a much heavier animal than the Virginian deer, and differs also from it in having a short tail terminating in a black tuft, in being of a greyer colour, and in having a dark patch on the forehead, a very marked bifurcation in the beam of the antler, and much larger ears. The ears are, indeed, very large—almost as large as those of the moose, though the latter animal is four times as heavy as the jumping deer. It is from this circumstance that the species has derived its name of “mule deer.”

This animal is found in Manitoba, west of the Red River and south of the large lakes, where the country is suited to its habits. It prefers the dry woods and half

open country, avoiding the high sand hills and damp bottom lands. The doe produces two, and sometimes three, at a birth, and the young are at first beautifully marked with white spots on a brownish background. Their voice is a peculiar squeal, and bears no resemblance to the bleat of a sheep or lamb. The habits of this deer are about the same as those of all common deer. It chooses secluded spots in which to hide its young until the latter are able to follow. It differs somewhat, however, from other deer in shyness. It often stands gazing in wonder at the first sight of the hunter. If suspicion is founded on grounds of alarm, it will bound off, jumping a peculiar jump, from which its name has been derived. It has often put me in mind of a stiff jumping horse, yet covering ground well at every stride.

In hunting the mule deer the same methods are employed as in the case of the Virginian deer, though I am disposed to believe that the latter is more wary and more difficult of approach. The excellence of the venison and the value of the skins of these two species, as well as the noble sport afforded by the hunt, have all conduced to render their pursuit one of the most fascinating of field recreations. The still hunt is the only method I have practised with these species of deer. Hounding deer is a method of which I do not approve, and in some countries it is forbidden by law. To hound successfully, a man must be well acquainted with both country and runways. When pursued the deer usually keeps to its regular paths or runways. The hunter, lying in ambush, either takes a flying shot or makes a noise with a whistle; for a second or two the animal halts, and there its death-warrant is sealed. But the still hunt is the true sportsman's method, for in it he must rely on himself alone, and, to succeed, must combine in himself no little perseverance as well as pure

physical endurance. He usually sets off alone on the trail of a deer; the first fall of snow gives him a sure trail. The animal has a fair chance. He meets its strength with strength, its cunning with cunning, and its speed with perseverance. Guided by well-known marks, he is sure the animal cannot be more than a few hundred yards away; and now he must prove himself as keen of sense and as stealthy of movement as a beast of prey, for this is the trying moment, and a trifle may crown or crush his hopes. He, however, closes quickly; soon he hears a rustling sound, and his quick eye catches sight of one large brown patch. All now depends on his skill, or away goes the object of his efforts beyond the possibility of another approach.

THE COMMON OR VIRGINIAN DEER (*Cariacus Virginianus*).—This deer has also been called “fallow deer,” “long-tailed deer,” “white-tailed deer,” and “common red deer.” But as the last name has also been applied to the wapiti, and the first does not belong here at all, much confusion will be avoided if we drop both in the present connection.

This species is smaller and more neatly made than the jumping deer. Its average weight is probably not much over 100 lbs. The names “long-tailed” and “white-tailed” deer are highly appropriate, for the tail is about fourteen inches in length—longer than that of any other of our Cervidæ, and throughout its under surface it is conspicuously white. In form as well as in size its antlers are very different from those of the wapiti, as they curve suddenly forward so that all the tines are on the back of the beam. Though its habitat is common to nearly the whole of North America except the extreme north, the Virginian deer is far from being plentiful in our province. Yet I have shot seven within the past four years.

THE ELK OR WAPITI (*Cervus Canadensis*).—The elk

is known as the "wapiti," "red deer," or "stag," but as the use of the last two names would cause considerable confusion, they will not appear here. The wapiti or elk is probably the largest of the family that bears branching antlers, and of all the Cervidæ it is second only to the moose in size and grandeur. A full-grown buck will usually stand from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet at the shoulders, and will weigh between 500 and 600 lbs. The female is smaller than the male, but is nevertheless a magnificent animal. The general colour is a deep chestnut; it is darkest on the head and limbs, and on the rump suddenly changes into dull white. The antlers constitute the most striking feature of the species, for it is probable that they exceed in size those of any other living deer. As with most of the family, they are the distinguishing elements of the male. A good idea of the elk's general appearance and carriage may be gathered from Landseer's celebrated pictures of the Scottish red deer, a species almost exactly a miniature of the lordly animal of which I am speaking.

At one time the elk was of general distribution in temperate North America, but its territory has been greatly diminished of late. Its chief strongholds at present are the foot-hills of the Rockies and the valley of the Yellowstone. In the North-West Territories it is found as far north as the Liard River, and the number of lakes, rivers, and creeks which are named "Red Deer" after this animal testifies to the universality of its distribution in this region. In Manitoba it continues to be tolerably common in the country north of Selkirk, and in the Pembina, Riding, and Duck Mountains, while a few small bands still (1884) roam over the sand-hill and scrub country between Portage la Prairie and Brandon.

The doe elk usually produces two fawns at each birth, and for a few days hides them in the cover, repairing to

this retreat to suckle them from time to time, until they are old enough to follow her about. She is unfailing in her watchfulness over her offspring, and is both able and willing to defend them from almost any of their natural enemies. So that the only barrier to the elk in the North-West is gunpowder, and the only reason that it does not maintain its ground is that men are so short-sighted that they would rather have three elk this year and never again another, than one elk every year for all time, or at least until some better use is found for the barren country of which at present they are almost the only inhabitants.

The cast-off antlers of the species are in some localities only less plentiful than the bones of the buffalo, and testify to its former abundance. The circumstance that these antlers are found chiefly on the high hills, Mr. Grinnell (of *Forest and Stream*) explains by the fact that the annual shedding takes place in the winter, when the depth of snow in the valleys compels the elk to frequent the comparatively bare elevations. Excellent authority as Mr. Grinnell is, I must differ from him, for in Manitoba, between the great lakes, I have had many opportunities of studying the elk, and I am under the impression that during the shedding of the horns it goes to the most secluded spot, even when water and muskeg are most preferred, and there drops them, taught so to do by instinct. The horns slowly sink out of sight, and, owing to the nature of the soil, are seldom seen by man. As the country is developed, Government drains are constructed, the plough turns the horns up, and hence many wrong ideas are placed on their discovery. Every year these immense horns are dropped, and others formed—like jelly at first, a velvet coat soon covers them; then this coat wears off, leaving the new horn. On the trophy in the Exhibition this peculiar freak can be seen in the velvet on the heads of caribou. The gamely appearance of

the elk makes it the object of continual pursuit during the hunting season, as their heads are eagerly sought for by gentlemen sportsmen for home decoration. There are twelve specimens on the game trophy, four extremely large. The hide of this deer is remarkably thick, and of great commercial value. Its meat is claimed to be much more nutritive than beef, but it is said that one will soon weary of it, while some persons never like it at all.

Before closing my remarks on the deer tribe, I must add that for their protection in Manitoba and the North-West our laws are of the most stringent nature, and game guardians are appointed in every locality where villages and posts are established. Our Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. La Riviere, has lent his aid unsparingly in their behalf, with the assistance of his deputy, Mr. Acton Burrows. The Game Protection Society of Winnipeg has also done wonders in this direction for a young society. They spare no one who even has in his possession evidence of having violated these laws; for in Manitoba and the North-West, during the open season, everyone is permitted to shoot and kill all he can or wishes to, without a permit, if a resident.

BEARS (*Ursus Americanus*).—The black and brown bears are distributed in almost every part of Manitoba and the North-West where timber exists. They grow to a very large size, and their coat is extremely fine, bringing a high figure in any market. This species never attack man, and is harmless unless wounded. But that much cannot be said of the grizzly bear (*Ursus horribilis*) or silver-tip and cinnamon bear of the Rockies, for if annoyed at all their rush is certain death. Their mode of warfare is to tear you open beneath your vest in the first charge; and my advice to all hunters is never to use any other gun but a Winchester repeater, 60 to 75 calibre, so that you can repeat as often as you like. For remember this,

with the silver-tip or grizzly of the Rockies, if you don't kill him soon, the hunt is reversed—the bear will hunt you. You will find he will be your unwelcome companion until you do, or escape; and if once wounded he will attack anyone for days who may chance to come in his way.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP (*Ovis montana*).—This fine specimen of wild sheep is found in our Canadian Rockies, from Canmore to the second crossing of the Columbia River, and affords excellent sport, though with extremely hard work. It is, however, to be had, if one is aided by the Stoney Indians, who are magnificent guides and trusty men. By leaving the Canadian Pacific at Banff or Morleyville you can go for fifteen or twenty miles either side of the track, and within ten days return with good specimens. Previously it was impossible to reach this country except by horses, and yet I find many specimens in England, shot by English gentlemen, who made this long journey years ago on horseback and waggons. Now it is an easy and pleasant trip, thanks to our great Canadian Pacific Railway, which will now take you to within fifteen or twenty miles of the sport. You can leave with safety all your surplus traps at the station houses, on your return finding nothing lost. Last year the distinguished chairman of this conference (Sir Charles Tupper) passed within ten miles of my camp in the Rockies, on his way to Winnipeg. I had at that time with me the two sheep you may now see on the game trophy. These specimens are reputed to be as fine as any in England.

The jumping qualities of the Mountain sheep are wonderful. It is said that their leaps are from 40 to 60 feet down, and that they strike on their heads, with their horns, as a protection from concussion. I have never witnessed this leap myself, and do not care to substantiate the statement until I do, but from the great weight of the

horns it is not at all unlikely. Their numbers are quite equal to true sport in the Banff locality. The head of a good male sells for £15, £20, and as high as £30, if the horns are evenly matched and not broken at the tips. The food is of good flavour, yet you tire of it very soon. I speak feelingly, as I had to help to eat one of that group on the game trophy last fall at Banff, where I was camped, and I will frankly confess that a partridge now and then was more acceptable.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT (*Aplocerus montanus*, Baird).

—This peculiar and uncommon specimen of goat is likewise associated with the sheep, for on the same hunting grounds both are shot; yet the goat is generally found higher up in the snow peaks. It is a rare animal even where it is shot, and is looked upon as the greatest climber and the most chary of all the mountain animals. It is not met with in herds, and very seldom finds its way to the foot-hills, confining itself almost entirely to the upper portions of the dizzy heights. I killed the one now on the game trophy ten miles from the shooting place of the sheep I have just mentioned. To hunt it, you require to go to the opposite side of the mountain and climb until you are above it. The same method is also applicable to the mountain sheep.

THE CANADA PORCUPINE (*Erethizon dorsatus*) is found in Manitoba and the North-West—more numerous in the North-West Territories.

VARYING HARE OR WHITE RABBIT (*Lepus Americanus*).

—This is the common rabbit of Manitoba. It is very abundant in all the wooded or scrubby regions of the Assiniboine Valley. Many observers have remarked that during some years it is exceedingly numerous, while in others it is comparatively rare. It is said to go on multiplying for six or seven successive years, and then at length an

epidemic disease regularly appears and decimates its numbers. It is much subject to the attacks of the parasitic tick, *Ixodes bovis*, numbers of which species may often be seen hanging on the throat and neck of the luckless rodent. The autumnal change of colour from brown to white not only takes place in cold regions, but I have observed it in our Canadian Rocky Mountains when there was no snow on the ground. About November 15 there is an entire change from brown to almost pure white. These animals are excellent for food.

THE PRAIRIE HARE (*Lepus campestris*) is also to be found along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I have shot it at the crossing of the Saskatchewan and at Indian Head, and in the valley of the Qu'Appelle River.

THE RACCOON (*Procyon lotor*) is generally distributed throughout almost every portion of Manitoba, but not in large numbers.

THE GREY WOLF OR TIMBER WOLF (*Canis lupus griseo-albus*) is now exceedingly rare, if not quite exterminated, along the Assiniboine, although it is not uncommon about Lake Winnipeg.

Richardson says of the American wolf that it burrows and brings forth its young in earths with several outlets like the fox. I have seen some of these burrows on the plains of the Saskatchewan and also on the banks of the Bow River. The number of young in the litter varies from 4 or 5 to 8 or 9. There are eight specimens on the game trophy. The country north of Lake Winnipeg, and to the extreme north, is well populated with timber wolves. The further north one gets the lighter they become in colour.

CANADA LYNX (*Lynx borealis Canadensis*) is tolerably common in the wooded sections. The wild cat, or red lynx (*Lynx rufus*), occurs, though I never saw it myself. It is

commonly confounded with the Canada species, but it differs from the latter most tangibly in being smaller, darker, more heavily marked, and in having the tip of the tail black above and whitish below. In *Canadensis* species the whole tip, above and below, is black.

THE PRAIRIE WOLF OR COYOTE (*Canis latrans*) is common in the prairie regions, although seldom seen in the summer. My mode of securing this animal is not by cunning or traps. He is a great traveller, keen of scent, not afraid of you while you are in motion; though, stop for a moment and he is off. I have shot it at night by decoying it with a beef shank tied to a rope, myself concealed in an old cabin, moonlight aiding me. When I felt a jerk on my end of the rope, I simply brought my rifle into position, and generally got my coyote. They will come at night almost into a village, and feed on whatever is thrown away, acting like common dogs, and clearing out to the prairie before morning.

THE PEKAU OR FISHER (*Mustela Pennantii*) is very rare in the Assiniboine Valley, but not uncommon in the wooded region about the large lakes.

THE MARTEN OR AMERICAN SABLE (*Mustela Americana*) is quite plentiful in the vicinity of all our great lakes. Richardson says that they carry their young six weeks, and bring forth from four to seven at a litter. I never saw more than three in a litter, yet I fully believe, from observation, that Richardson is correct.

KIT FOX (*Vulpes velox*).—According to Dr. Cones this little fox is common along the Souris River at the boundary. It burrows in the open plains from the Saskatchewan to the Missouri.

THE COMMON FOX (*Vulpes fulvus*) is abundant throughout Manitoba. A fox when detected on the black burnt prairie is always much more frightened than when in the

dry yellow grass. An individual that escaped with a trap on his foot, though not alarmed by pursuit, went down every badger hole he came to, in hopes apparently of leaving the trap behind.

The cross, silver, and black foxes are mere varieties, and of very questionable value.

The white or arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) is to be looked for in the country north and east of Lake Winnipeg. The specimen I have on the game trophy was shot near Selkirk, Manitoba, two years ago.

WOLVERINE (*Gulo luscus*).—The wolverine is very rare in Manitoba, and the evidence that it now occurs at all along the Lower Assiniboine is not by any means conclusive. It is, however, not uncommon in the north and east. Mr. Wm. Clark says that in 1872 1,200 skins of this species were brought by the Hudson Bay Co. from the Peace River region, and in 1873 1,300 from the same territory.

MINK (*Putorius vison*).—This is a plentiful species throughout the province, especially along the rivers and creeks. During the winter it appears to abandon the aquatic life it leads in the summer, and often makes its winter quarters among the farmer's outbuildings, where its presence is soon proved by the nightly decrease in the number of poultry.

At Totogan last year, where I was camped, minks were very abundant. Perfect security can be had on all our rivers for their increase, for the tall quill reeds line the banks, growing as high as ten feet. While passing up and down this river last autumn I shot many. They would sit and look at me without fear until alarmed by splash of paddle or report of gun. I never trapped mink, but have lived in a camp where 1,500 to 2,000 traps were set in the vicinity.

THE SKUNK (*Mephitis mephitica*) is abundant through-

out the country. The fur is very valuable, and was fashionable within the past two years for trimmings. The skunk will seldom retreat either from man or dog, relying on its mode of attack, which is a sure defence except to an Indian, and I have seen even an Indian retreat at times. It is fond of water at certain seasons, and an excellent swimmer.

OTTER (*Lutra Canadensis*).—Apparently the otter is of general distribution, though exceedingly rare in the south and west. The northern otter is sought after by all furriers for its great blackness. Norway House otters bring a handsome price in the Winnipeg market. The specimens I have here are one from Lake Superior and one from Norway House. By a close examination the difference is quite apparent, yet Lake Superior otters are very choice. They must also come from the north district around Algoma Mills, &c.

BADGER (*Taxidea Americana*).—An abundant species is found in the prairie regions of the south and west. The flesh diet of this animal is, I believe, composed chiefly of gophers. Mr. Seton says he has frequently seen places where a badger, guided apparently by scent, had dug down from twenty to thirty holes at intervals, so as to strike the surface burrow of some gopher, with a view to intercepting the little miner, and the evidence usually went to show that ultimately the rodent fell a victim to its indefatigable foe.

The great strength of the badger is attested by the fact that if seized by the tail just as it is disappearing into its hole it will brace itself with its fore feet and bid defiance to all the force of a strong man. One which was so seized I tried to dislodge by pouring water down the hole, but it swelled out its body and so filled the hole that no water could get past it until a passage had been made by the insertion of a pole.

In the autumn of 1884, I saw a great many badger tracks and new earths after the first snow had fallen. In hopes of finding a specimen "denned up" for the winter I dug to the bottom of several burrows, but in each case with the same result. The burrows all went down about six feet, and where they terminated it was unmistakable evidence that the badger had dug down in search of some dormant gopher, whose hoard of grain was in each case left scattered about in the earth, and all of it more or less sprouted. The badger of Manitoba and the North-West is by far the most superior of its race in any other part of the globe. I would call your attention to the one now before you; it certainly speaks for itself.

THE BEAVER (*Castor fiber*), the last animal of which I have to speak, is very abundant in all places north of the great lakes. Its habits are conspicuous in the building of its dams, so that trappers find no difficulty in catching the entire family in a season. The fur is much prized, especially that of the far-north beaver, which is of a choice description.

I have thus spoken of all the leading game of my native country, the Canadian North-West, and if I have served to convey an idea of the great field there for true sport, I am well repaid. May Englishmen in increasing numbers find there what I have found—game in abundance, and hearty enjoyment in its proper pursuit in our bracing and healthy air.

Before closing, however, I may perhaps read two of many letters from sporting parties whom I had the pleasure of directing last year while I was myself shooting. The first letter is from Alderman John Maughan, of Toronto. His party consisted of David Ward, the gentleman who brought Edward Hanlan to England the first time; Mr. George Warin, the builder of Hanlan's boats; and Mr. John Small, M.P.P. for East Toronto. This party may be said to represent the

cream of Canadian sportsmen, having been over 30 years in the field.

TORONTO, *December 20, 1885.*

Messrs. Ward, Warin, Small, and myself left Toronto on the 19th September, by the Canadian Pacific Railway, for Winnipeg, where we arrived on the 22nd, after a very pleasant passage, and receiving every attention from the employés of that railway, and the captain and officers of the steamboat "Athabaska." On reaching said city we were met by Mr. J. H. Hubbard (president Manitoba Gun Club), who had completed all arrangements for our comfort in camp and field; being an old sportsman himself, everything necessary had been provided by him, and to his kindness and thoughtfulness the pleasure of our trip was in a great measure due. Remaining part of a day in Winnipeg; I could see great improvements (in the way of fine new buildings, block-paved streets, &c.) since visiting that city in 1883. No doubt it is bound to be the centre of trade for Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and must necessarily become a very large and prosperous place. On the 23rd our party left for Westbourne Station, on the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, and from there drove to our camp on the southern shore of Manitoba Lake, near the mouth of White Mud River (filled with fish—maskelonge, pickerel, and pike—some of immense size), where we found everything ready for our stay. The weather was too warm for keeping game, so that for some time we amused ourselves fishing, and going through the marshes so as to get the lay of the place for shooting when cold weather would begin. For several weeks the change in the temperature did not take place; but the section abounds with game, and we made up for lost time on getting to work. Thirty days' shooting produced a bag of 2,826 ducks (all nearly mallards, grey ducks, and gadwells), 16 geese, and a quantity of large plover, partridge, rabbit, &c.; and even then the residents on the adjoining farms to the marshes informed us that the season was a poor one for game on account of the water being unusually low. A more beautiful section of country could not be found than the belt of land extending south of the lake named, in extent about 30 miles long by 16 wide, farmed by good farmers who have lived from 14 to 23 years there and grown rich. Amongst those we had the pleasure of meeting were Messrs. Morrison, Lynch, Stewart, Walker, and McLean, all highly pleased with the country and the result of their years of farming. All these gentlemen named own fine herds of cattle, a great number thoroughbred and registered in our "Canadian Shorthorn-Book." Summer frosts have not been known, and the yield of wheat, oats, &c., was very large—35 to 45 bushels of wheat per acre being the yield—and a ready market within from three to six miles. The country also abounds in wild fruits—

black and red currants, raspberries, strawberries, cranberries, &c.—which make delicious preserves, and which we frequently tasted through the kindness and hospitality of Messrs. Morrison and Lynch, near whose homesteads we camped. We were also very much indebted to Mr. Maximé Villebrun, agent, Hudson Bay Company, and Mr. William Moor, of Totogan, who showed us a great deal of kindness and attention.

A more delightful or healthy climate cannot exist in any part of the world, if one may judge by this last fall's weather. In two months only one rain storm, lasting for part of a day and night, the balance clear sunshine.

I cannot close without returning the thanks of our party to Messrs. Robert Kerr and E. Tiffen, the general freight and passenger agents at Winnipeg and Toronto of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, who afforded every facility and accommodation, and took a great deal of pains to make our trip in every way a pleasant one. Their road is a very fine one, and must be a great boon to the travelling public, and to sportsmen from all over the world.

Yours truly,
J. MAUGHAN.

GILSEY HOUSE, NEW YORK,
November 24, 1885.

To J. H. Hubbard, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

MY DEAR SIR,

Before taking our departure from America, we desire to thank you for your kindness in planning our pleasant and successful shooting trip. Mr. Banks shot three moose, two wapiti, and three jumping deer. I, partly by my own fault and partly my guide's, was not so lucky, but got some good specimens. We certainly found the country all you claimed for it in sport. We are indebted to you and to Mr. Chipman, of the High Commissioner's Office, for maps and information. I will see him personally, and thank him for his favour in our behalf.

Faithfully yours,

AUBYN BATTYE,
Oxford.
MERRYICK BANKS,
Wigan.

APPENDIX.

Parties who intend to make a visit to Canada for the purposes of sport may, by the guidance of the following directions, enjoy a pleasant, healthy, and rapid trip. First, then, let us suppose that the sportsman is landed at a Canadian port—Quebec, Montreal, or Halifax (Nova Scotia). And it is well to mention that hitherto the Canadian steamship lines crossing the Atlantic have given entire satisfaction to all British sportsmen who have made their acquaintance. These gentlemen speak highly of the treatment they received on the voyage, especially in regard to the care of baggage and the easy modes of transshipment at Halifax, Point Levis (Quebec), and Montreal. My treatment two years ago, with my four guns and other shooting material, confirms their statements. There is no trouble with custom-house authorities at our Canadian ports; whereas, arriving at any American port, one is subject to many annoying and seemingly unnecessary rules and requirements. Even though one protests, and asks to have the luggage bonded, yet it will take two days, and sometimes three. And when hand baggage, new guns or traps, are added to the luggage, the trouble is, so far as my experience goes, something beyond endurance. I have had my own trouble at New York, and speak therefore from actual knowledge, while others I have known have passed through a similar experience. This is all avoided at a Canadian port. Here you are, as it were, at home; a British subject, undergoing little or no change in laws, in habits, or in dress.

Upon arrival, then, at Quebec or Montreal, the Canadian Pacific Railway takes all traps on first-class tickets, guaranteeing their safe arrival at whatever point is the destination of the sportsman. If the journey is from Liverpool to British Columbia—that is, should the shooting grounds of the Pacific province be one's destination—there is but this one change from ocean steamer to railway train; unless, of

course, one chooses the pleasing Canadian Pacific lake and rail route, by way of Owen Sound and Port Arthur—a most delightful trip, in excellent Clyde-built steamers, during the summer months. If your hunting ground is nearer east, you can of course get off the train at the nearest point. Winnipeg is the headquarters for Manitoba, and as far west as Calgary, which is over 800 miles west of Winnipeg, sport of the highest order may be obtained. Within two days of Winnipeg one may go for deer, while by a journey of twelve hours or less one may find all feathered game in abundance. Your surplus baggage should all be left at Winnipeg, communication to and from which is most rapid in nearly all parts. Winnipeg is, in fact, your supply point for all classes and kinds of ammunition, tents, blankets, knives, boats, and rifles. All of these can be cheaply purchased there, and from as many as four competing houses. Cooks and servants can also be engaged. One's address should be left at the hotel there, so that mail matter may be forwarded; while it is well also to give your English address to your hotel proprietor. In fact, I look on Winnipeg as the sportsman's headquarters.

Abundant sport may be had on the prairie by going due north-west from Winnipeg. Twenty miles away one may shoot every class of the birds I have already mentioned as residential or migratory. Wherever water appears, it will be found alive with ducks of all species. There are the ducks that have been hatched on the spot, and will remain in the vicinity until they are either killed or join their species in the grand autumn flight for the south in November. Then there are also snipe, prairie plover, and every variety of migratory game field-birds as well as residential birds, in such numbers that you will "put up" at almost every slip of your dogs by the way. You will indeed have plenty to do every five minutes, until you are tired of shooting. A satisfactory result must depend alone on your skill as a marksman.

Shoal Lake, which is in the vicinity, is a capital place at which to camp for a week. Leaving this, you may make your way to Long Lake by proceeding a little out of the regular trail to Reaburn, on Canadian Pacific Railway, your boat having been sent forward to Reaburn Station; or, if you do not care for a prairie life, a more direct route may be taken to Oak Point, baggage being sent to the care of

Hudson Bay Company. At Reaburn every variety of duck may be had, and it will be found very pleasant to strike camp at this point for a week. And if October be the month, one's bag may consist not only of ducks, but also of snipe, plover, geese, pinnated grouse, sharp-tail grouse, &c. When tired of the open prairie, make your way to Oak Point, on journeying to which you will draw near to Lake Manitoba. Remember when passing Lake Francis that all the land over which you are driving forms a magnificent hunting ground. Your destination is, however, Oak Point, and there you have Lake Manitoba at your feet, yielding the finest water I ever drank.

Proceeding from Oak Point, shot, cartridge, and all shot-gun apparatus and surplus baggage may be dropped, and the Winchester repeater picked up. Employ your guides at a dollar (or 4s.) per day and food. Under their guidance you will pass on between the great lakes, which are situated here. Moose and wapiti are now your principal game, except morning and night flight-shooting at the Canada geese. Return to Oak Point when you are satisfied; thence by conveyance to Reaburn, and from that point, by the Canadian Pacific Railway, into Winnipeg on the same night, if you wish. My advice, however, would be to make it a shooting trip all the way on the return, reaching Winnipeg on the second day, having shot from Oak Point to Reaburn. This trip will, as things are now, satisfy every one, for it is not expensive and there is plenty of game, and, if desired, a market to which to send all that is shot.

A trip may also be taken from Winnipeg to Selkirk, a distance of 23 miles north of Winnipeg, by the Canadian Pacific Railway. From Selkirk a fine deer country is entered; while the return may be made even more rapidly than from Oak Point. The marshes on the sides of the Red River are, in the autumn, fairly alive with wild fowl.

If scenery and mountain game are the objects of the tourist, let him take a tourist return ticket from Winnipeg to Vancouver, in British Columbia, so that he can stop at different points *en route*. One of these stoppages may be made at Rush Lake, 488 miles west of Winnipeg where a week may well be spent. Another rest of four days may be taken at Goose Lake, 528 miles west. Stop also at Calgary, at the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, for one day. This beautiful spot, on the banks

of the Bow River, must be regarded as the headquarters for mountain shooting. Here, as at Winnipeg, all surplus clothing must be left. Proceeding by train up the slope of the mountains, get off at Banff, 80 miles beyond Calgary, situated in a beautiful district, which is now being made into a Canadian national park. For 20 miles on either side of Banff good sport may be had with the Rocky Mountain sheep and goat, as well as at bears and the black-tail deer towards the "foot hills." The Stoney Indians will act as your guides; and faithful fellows they are, too.

Having spent some little time in the Banff district, again take the train and proceed to Eagle Pass in the Selkirk Range. Here you may shoot caribou to your heart's content, and even stand a chance of having a brush with a silver-tip or grizzly bear. All the way from Banff Station—wherever, in fact, a stream or lake appears in the mountains, and that is quite often—trout are abundant, and will offer a pleasant diversion in excellent fishing. The rest of the route to the Pacific is grand almost beyond description, as one passes through the Gold Range of mountains. And few things will here cause more astonishment than the enormous timbers towering to the skies, such as one may view in our great Colonial Exhibition. On the return to the east, by the same Canadian Pacific route, get the conductor to put you off at any point where you see game in good numbers, for you may in this way meet the great flight of geese going into British Columbia. If you do, it will be indeed a gala week. I crossed that flight of geese last year at Goose Lake, and found rifle-shooting at it fine work indeed.

There are many other points where good sport may be had, but for a sufficiency I think either route that I have indicated will bring you home in good health and with a high opinion of Manitoba, the Canadian North-West, and its game products.

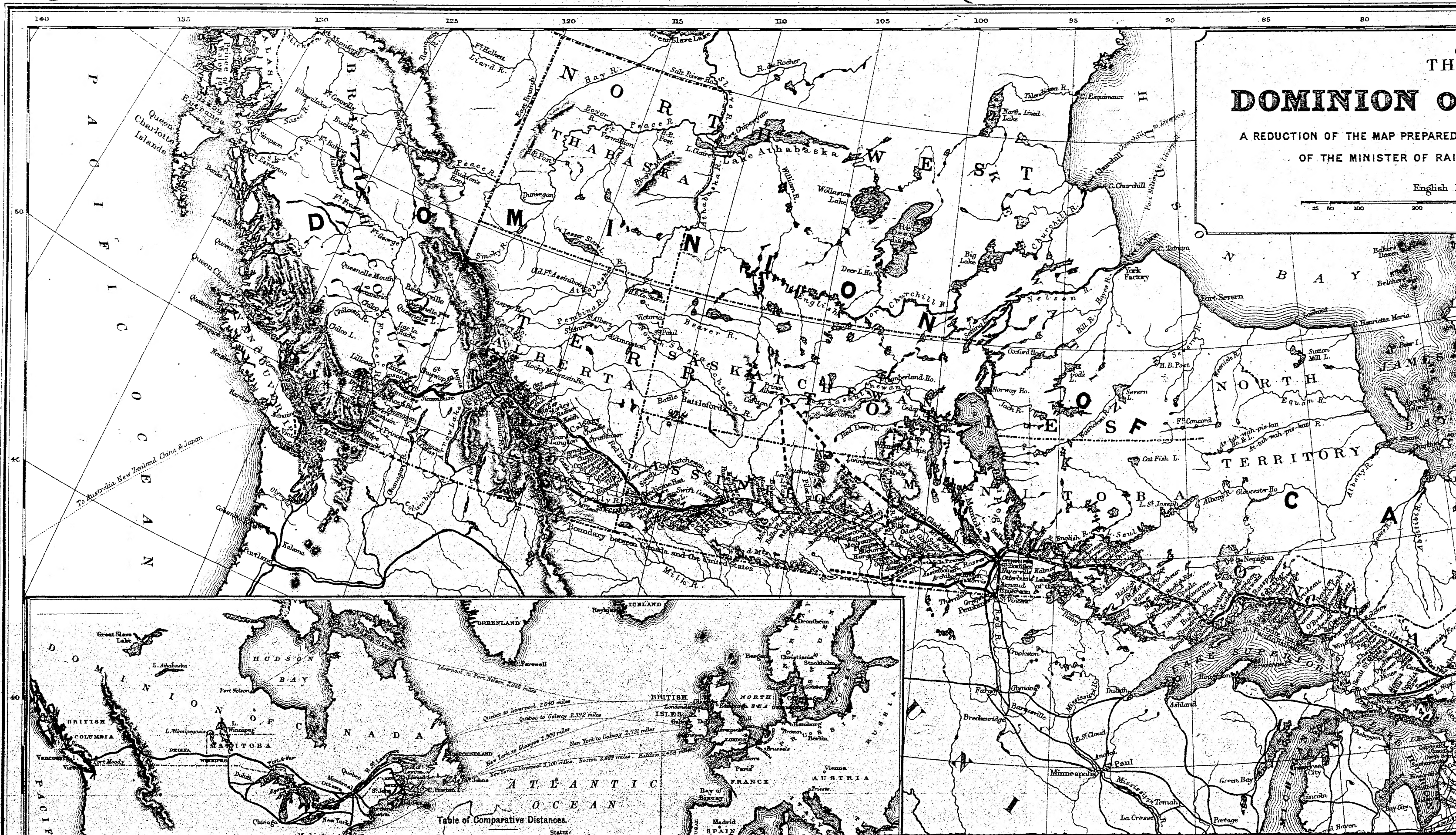
I would suggest that the British sportsman should take his shot-guns with him, ammunition for 10 and 12 bore being readily obtainable in Winnipeg at reasonable prices. He had, however, better leave his sporting rifle at home and purchase a Winchester repeater, with ammunition, on his arrival at the Manitoba capital, this being more suited for the country. A Winchester rifle can be purchased in Winnipeg for from £5 to £7.

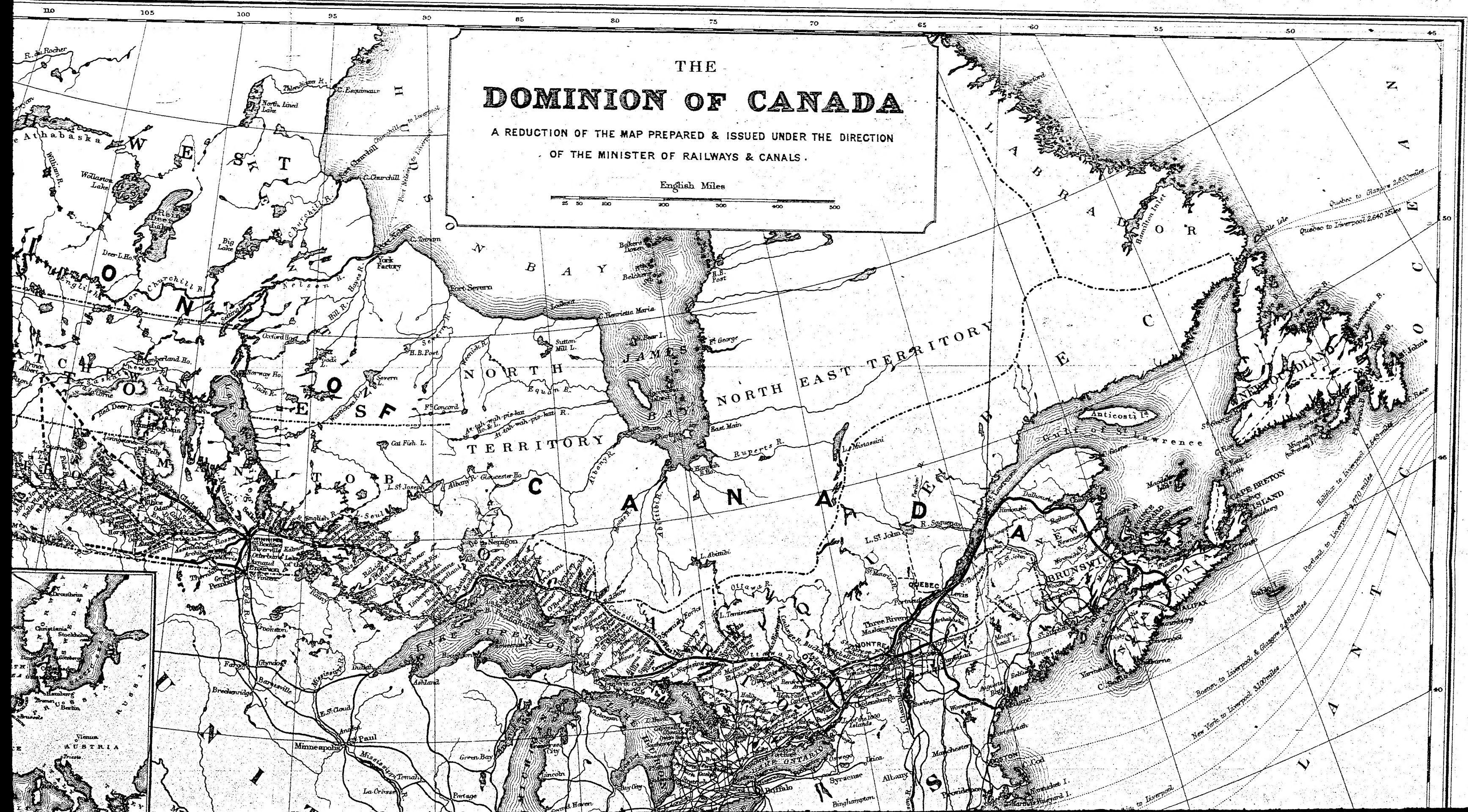
Before closing, let me add that the following are, according to our Game Laws, the close times for game in the Canadian North-West;—

- (a) Deer, elk, moose, reindeer (cariboo), their fawns or hares, from January 1st to October 1st.
- (b) Grouse, prairie chicken or partridge, from January 1st to September 1st.
- (c) Woodcock, plover, or snipe, from March 15th to August 1st.
- (d) Any kind of wild duck, widgeon, teal, or wild goose (except the species known as "waders"), from May 1st to September 1st.
- (e) Otter, fisher, beaver, musk rat, or sable, from May 1st to October 1st.
- (f) Mink or marten, from April 15th to November 1st.

Several other provisions make it illegal to have any of the above in possession during the close time; to use any punt guns or batteries; or to take any of the animals mentioned above, except those in sections *e* and *f*, by traps, nets, snares, gins, "or other contrivances." It is further provided, that no person shall shoot, kill, injure, take, buy, sell, or be in possession at such time of any birds except eagles, falcons, hawks, jays, crows, or ravens, or their eggs, nests, or young, though the Minister of Agriculture may grant permission for them to be killed for scientific purposes. The fine for breaking the Act is fixed at not less than 10 dollars (£2), or more than 50 dollars (£10), the whole of which is paid to the prosecutor.

J. H. HUBBARD,





A REDUCTION OF THE MAP PREPARED
OF THE MINISTER OF RA

English

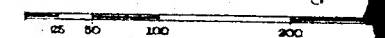


Table of Comparative Distances.

	Statute Miles
From MONTREAL to VANCOUVER	2,900
From NEW YORK to VANCOUVER, via Brookville and Can. Pacific R.R.	2,180
From NEW YORK to SAN FRANCISCO, by the shortest route	2,523
From LIVERPOOL to MONTREAL	3,043
From LIVERPOOL to NEW YORK	3,043
From LIVERPOOL to VANCOUVER, via Montreal and Can. Pacific R.R.	5,843
From LIVERPOOL to SAN FRANCISCO	6,783
From LIVERPOOL to YOKOHAMA (Japan), via Montreal and Vancouver	10,977
From LIVERPOOL to YOKOHAMA, via New York and Vancouver	11,890
From LIVERPOOL to YOKOHAMA, via New York and San Francisco	11,900

35 Longitude West from Greenwich 30

THE DOMINION OF CANADA

A REDUCTION OF THE MAP PREPARED & ISSUED UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS & CANALS.

English Miles

